

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and have now been canceled per this amendment and response.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant wishes to point out that the indefinite language has been removed from claim 1, claims 2-11 have been canceled per this amendment and response, and Applicant has taken care to avoid using indefinite language in new claim 12.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,179,799 to Hillestad. Claim 9 has been canceled per this amendment and response.

Claims 1-8, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillestad in view of US Patent No. 3,397,485 to Peterson. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to reflect that the present invention has “said at least two vertical supports arranged to slide along said at least one ring while remaining attached to said at least one ring, so that said at least two vertical supports can touch one another.” Applicant has further defined claim 1 to overcome Hillestad in view of Peterson. Claims 2-8, 10, and 11 have been canceled per this amendment and response. New claim 12 depends from claim 1.

Applicant hereby petitions for a three month extension of time beyond the shortened-three-month period for response. Please charge all fees due and owing to PTO Deposit Account 500356 in the name of Greenberg & Lieberman.

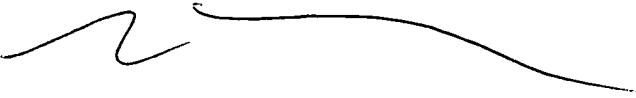
I hereby certify that this was mailed on 7/13/05 via US first class postage prepaid to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, PO Box 1450, Alexandria,

VA 22313-1450.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the Attorney of Record, Michael Greenberg, at 202-625-7000 should this not result in an allowance.

Respectfully,

Michael L. Greenberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Greenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Michael L. Greenberg, Esq.

Reg. No. 47,312